

Warm Holiday Wishes from West Wetaskiwin REA

As the holiday season draws near, all of us at West Wetaskiwin REA want to share our warmest wishes for a bright and joyful Christmas. This is a time to gather with family and friends, celebrate the moments that matter, and reflect on the many things that bring light to our lives.

We're grateful for your trust and the chance to keep your homes and farms glowing with safe, reliable power. Your support means everything to us, and we look forward to another year of serving our community.

From all of us at West Wetaskiwin REA, may your holidays be filled with warmth, cheer, and the light of the season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Sign Your ESC and

WIN!

Our revised Electronic Service Contract (ESC) has been mailed out, and members who return it by **February 1, 2026** will be entered to win a \$500.00 credit towards their monthly electricity bill! The winner will be drawn and announced at the 2026 Annual General Meeting.



For Power Troubles:

Battle River Power Coop (our distribution system operator)
Toll-free: 1-877-428-3972

For RRO Billing and Account Inquiries:

Battle River Power Coop | Box 1420 Camrose, Alberta T4V 1X3
Toll-free: 1-877-428-3972
E-mail: brpc@brpower.coop | Website: www.brpower.coop

For REA Inquiries, New Service and Service Change Requests:

Contact West Wetaskiwin REA, RR #1
Station Main, Wetaskiwin, Alberta T9A 1W8
Tel: 780-335-9378 (WEST)

E-mail: westwet@telus.net | Website: www.westwetaskiwinrea.com

For service requests: go to www.westwetaskiwinrea.com/new-or-changes-to-services.html

The Spark Behind Holiday Cheer: A Brief History of Christmas Decorations

When we think Christmas, we picture homes glowing with lights, trees dressed in ornaments, and streets shimmering with festive displays. But it wasn't always this way. The tradition of decorating for Christmas has evolved dramatically over the centuries, and electricity has played a starring role in making the season brighter than ever.

From Candles to Colorful Lights

Early Christmas trees were adorned with candles, a beautiful but risky practice. It wasn't until the late 19th century that electric lights began to replace candles.

Once a Luxury, Now a Classic

When they first debuted in the late 1800s, electric Christmas lights were a luxury few could afford. The wiring of electric lights had cost about \$300, which would be over \$7,000 in today's dollars, and would require the service of an electrician. In 1903 General Electric began to offer affordable pre-assembled kits of Christmas lights, making them more attainable for the average family.

The Debut of Dazzling Displays

On Christmas Eve in 1923, President Calvin Coolidge started the nation's celebration of Christmas with the lighting of the National Christmas Tree. For the first time ever, this tree featured the glowing of 3,000 electric lights.

Modern Christmas is Bright

Nowadays electric Christmas lights are a ubiquitous part of the season. There's virtually no street in Canada that you can drive down in December without seeing at least one house illuminated with colourful light. Approximately \$176.2million worth of Christmas decorations are sold yearly in Canada.

Bringing It All Together

From the first flicker of candlelight to today's dazzling LED displays, electricity has transformed the way we celebrate the holidays. We're proud to be part of what keeps your homes bright and your traditions glowing.



Think Before You Share: Protect Your Privacy Online

Oversharing on social media can make you an easy target for identity theft and scams. Details like your birthday, address, or even vacation plans can give cybercriminals the clues they need to access your accounts or impersonate you.



Quick Tips

Review your privacy settings regularly.

Avoid posting personal details like full birth dates or home addresses.

Be cautious about sharing real-time location updates – post those vacation photos after you get home.

A little discretion goes a long way in keeping your digital life secure.

Rate
of Last
Resort
(RoLR)



The Rate of Last Resort (RoLR) is a fixed monthly rate set at \$0.13500 per kWh until the end of December 2026. Detailed information on the RoLR is available on: www.westwetaskiwinrea.com.

Members are free to purchase natural gas services or electricity services from a retailer of their choice. For a list of retailers, visit ucahelps.alberta.ca or call 310-4822 (toll free in Alberta).